

Green Communities 2014 Competitive Grant Question and Answer Forum

Q1: In the Competitive GC Grant Application, how does a town show the ROI for a new energy efficient HVAC system that the town would like to install in a newly constructed building? What is the comparison point? Would it be to compare the energy use of 1) the HVAC unit the town would have installed if they did not use the GC grant funding to the 2) the energy efficient HVAC unit the town would like to install with the GC grant funding?

A1: The new HVAC system in the newly constructed building should be compared to a code compliant unit.

Q2: Our town purchased a church that will be renovated into the new town library in FY15. The old library building will continue to be used as administration offices and will stay in the MEI baseline. We cannot add the church building to the town's baseline, because it was purchased after the baseline year. The building could be tracked separately on MEI from the town baseline, however it's not occupied, so the energy data from the building is not reflective of what the actual energy use would be if the building was occupied. 1) Is the building eligible for the GC competitive grant round? 2) If yes, what information would you need to show that there would be energy savings from the proposed projects? The town knows the square footage of the building and the hours that the new library would be in operation. Using this information, should we estimate what the present annual energy usage of the building would be with the current building equipment (old furnace etc) and compare it to the estimated annual energy usage with the proposed energy efficient equipment (new energy efficient furnace etc) to show the estimated annual energy savings?

A2: Yes, this building is eligible for the Competitive Grant Program. Ineligible buildings would be those that will not be tracked by the town, such as a regional school district that was not included as part of the Green Communities designation application. Regarding the information needed to show realistic present annual usage and subsequent energy savings from proposed measures, we do not have any specific requirements other than that the information should be developed by a qualified energy professional with an explanation and justification for how the data was determined.

Q3: Can we submit a proposal for more than \$250K? The energy committee understands that the grants will be very competitive this year and wanted to give DOER some extra projects in case any are removed for some reason.

A3: No. The maximum request allowed is \$250K.

Q4: We are getting a ton of heat loss around and through the old windows on our Town Hall so I'd like to know if replacement of the windows would qualify for granting funding under air sealing or something similar?

A4: New windows are not eligible for funding under the competitive grant program.